

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/509,849

Examiner

Debra Wolfe

Applicant(s)

BERENDES ET AL.

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed June 26, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3 and 6-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Friedirch Kueffner on July 28, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 9 please delete "any of Claims 3 to 8, characterized by the fact that" starting on line 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "a piston-cylinder actuator (7a) coupled to a pusher (16) which has connecting arms (17a, 17b) aligned with ends (8) of the rolls, and wherein the piston-cylinder actuator (7a) is arranged on the drive side (12) of the rolling stand (1) and is coupled to the pusher (16) with its piston rod (7b)" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in the independent claim.

Further searching by the examiner yielded additional prior art as follows:

2. Mukaigawa et al (U.S Patent # 6,763,565) discloses the method of changing pairs of work rolls (52) and backup rolls (53) for a rolling stand (51) through the use of an apparatus



having a linear actuator (54) that moves a pair of work rolls (52) supported on chocks (52a) in a perpendicular direction to the rolling direction for removal or installation. The same linear actuator (pusher 54) also moves a roll changing frame (stool 59), which supports the backup rolls (53), for removal and installation of the backup rolls (53) by first coupling to the work rolls (52) and then moving the work rolls out of the rolling stand (51) and is then uncoupled from the work rolls. The uncoupled linear actuator is then coupled to the roll changing frame (stool 59) and moves the roll changing frame (stool 59) such that it is placed between the backup rolls (53) within the rolling stand (51) and once the backup rolls (53) are supported on the roll changing frame (stool 59) they are moved in or out of the rolling stand (51).

Sherwood (U.S. Patent # 3,583,195) discloses a roll changing apparatus having a main gear housing (168) with releasable spindles (166) connected to the rolls for driving each roll.

3. However the above cited prior art fails to disclose a pusher with connecting arms that are aligned with the ends of the rolls. Therefore, it is concluded that claim 3 of the present invention is allowable subject matter over the prior art. Claims 3 and 6-11 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The



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examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 6am - 3:30pm with alternating Friday 6am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra Wolfe
Examiner
Art Unit 3725

EDTOLAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Edtolan", is written over the printed name "EDTOLAN".